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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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JOSHUA LEDERBERG
JOSEPH D. GRANT PROFESSOR
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Dr. Donald H. Dean
Department of Microbiology
The Ohio State University
484 West 12th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Dr. Dean:

Thank you for your letter of February 17. I appreciate the problem that you are addressing and the effort that you will be making to keep the pedigree line straight. I am a little afraid that there are enough errors in the strain summary book and their uncritical interpretation that a mere copying might do more harm than good if the listing were not accompanied by some more personal insight into the derivations and into the sources of additional information. I certainly had this experience in trying to trace the histories of E. coli strains. We have tried to be as meticulous as possible in describing the derivation of the strains mentioned in any of our publications; but of course I realize that that may not be the most convenient way to access further information.

We will be giving close attention to the question of the most responsible disposition of our stock culture collection and our strain notes as this is, of course, affected by my looming move to Rockefeller University, where I do not expect to continue this line of research. I will certainly keep your request in mind in those deliberations.

Meanwhile, if you do have any questions about specific situations, I hope you will not hesitate to address them either to Dr. Ganesan or myself.

Sincerely yours,

JL/gel